

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for December 30-31, 1995

"Fiery Trial"

I Peter 4:12-19

EXPECT SUFFERING (I Peter 4:12)

Theologically - We should not expect to suffer less but actually more because we will suffer not only as a man but also as a follower of Christ (Romans 8:18-21)

Historically - What goes around comes around

This fiery trial was not viewed by Peter negatively but rather positively

1. Testing proves us (I Peter 1:6-7)
2. Testing purifies us (James 1:2-4)

REJOICE IN SUFFERING

PRESENT ASPECT - When we share in Christ's sufferings we are commanded to rejoice

The sufferings of Christ are those sufferings that come to us as a result of living as Jesus lived

Being able to rejoice as we share the sufferings of Christ testify to us of the reality of our union with Christ

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FUTURE ASPECT - When we rejoice in Christ's sufferings we are assured of future joyful exultation

Exultation - jubilant, skipping, boiling over with shouts of delight

"Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you" - God who sent His Son, also sends the spirit on those who suffer as loyal followers of His Son. (Acts 7:54-60)

EVALUATE SUFFERING

Unacceptable behaviors (I Peter 4:15)

1. Behaviors that society considers unacceptable legally
2. Behaviors the Lord considers unacceptable socially

Troubling meddler - Refers to a person who acts as an overseer in matters that belong to another.

Response to suffering (I Peter 4:16)

1. Negative response - shame
2. Positive response - in that name glorify God, "Christian" is that name.

The main point: If God is hard on Christians, how severe indeed will he be with those who reject Him. (I Peter 4:17-18)

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ENTRUST OURSELVES TO GOD

When we commit ourselves to doing what is right we are in fact entrusting ourselves to the Lord. (I Peter 4:19)